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press release

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MACHINE TOOL ORDERS AND SHIPMENTS DECLINE IN APRIL

Contact
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McLean, VA, May 27, 1985 -- Net new orders for American machine tools fell 34% in April from the previous month, totalling $183.50 million, while shipments were down 25% at $169.75 million. Data released today is from the National Machine Tool Builders' Association, the industry's trade group.

Regarding the monthly orders and shipments decline, Association president James A. Gray said that, "March was an unusually strong month, producing an end-of-quarter surge that was not repeated in April." However, Gray also said that he shares the concern expressed by other business and industry leaders regarding President Reagan's proposed tax plan. "We must not change our capital recovery laws,"

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national machine tool builders association

Gray said. "Our current investment policies, together with the abatement of inflation, have stimulated productivity growth and lowered unemployment in the past several years. Yet presently popular proposals in Washington would eliminate the investment tax credit and reduce ACRS. Why 'kill the goose' by slowing capital recovery in the name of deficit reductions and tax simplification? There is nothing simple or fair about decreasing budget deficits in ways that increase unemployment, lower productivity and make American industry less competitive worldwide, particularly at a time when the United States is experiencing its worst trade deficits in history."

For the month of April, orders for metal cutting machine tools declined 46% to a level of $122.10 million, with shipments off 35% at $103.15 million. In the metal forming category, orders rose 17% to a total of $61.40 million, while shipments fell 3% to a level of $66.60 million.

Industry order backlogs increased slightly in April to $1.88 billion from $1.87 billion the previous month.

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COMPARISON CHART

NET NEW ORDERS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Thousands of Dollars)

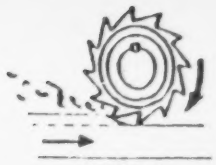
	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
April 1985	112,850	9,250	122,100	57,300	4,100	61,400	170,150	13,350	183,500
March 1985	202,700	24,300	227,000	47,050	5,250	52,300	249,750	29,550	279,300
% Change									
Apr. 1985:Mar. 1985	-44.3	-61.9	-46.2	+21.8	-21.9	+17.4	-31.9	-54.8	-34.3
April 1984	135,700	44,100	179,800	65,900	7,400	73,300	201,600	51,500	253,100
% Change									
Apr. 1985:Apr. 1984	-16.8	-79.0	-32.1	-13.1	-44.6	-16.2	-15.6	-74.1	-27.5
Year To Date 1985	588,350	62,250	650,600	245,050	16,100	261,150	833,400	78,350	911,750
Year To Date 1984	511,800	80,750	592,550	241,700	19,300	261,000	753,500	100,050	853,550
% Change									
1985 : 1984	+15.0	-22.9	+9.8	+1.4	-16.6	+0.1	+10.6	-21.7	+6.8

SHIPMENTS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Thousands of Dollars)

	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
April 1985	98,150	5,000	103,150	63,650	2,950	66,600	161,800	7,950	169,750
March 1985	140,350	18,650	159,000	64,200	4,450	68,650	204,550	23,100	227,650
% Change									
Apr. 1985:Mar. 1985	-30.1	-73.2	-35.1	-0.9	-33.7	-3.0	-20.9	-65.6	-25.4
April 1984	92,700	8,800	101,500	52,300	4,950	57,250	145,000	13,750	158,750
% Change									
Apr. 1985:Apr. 1984	+5.9	-43.2	+1.6	+21.7	-40.4	+16.3	+11.6	-42.2	+6.9
Year To Date 1985	418,050	42,150	460,200	226,500	14,750	241,250	644,550	56,900	701,450
Year To Date 1984	365,700	33,900	399,600	188,250	20,400	208,650	553,950	54,300	608,250
% Change									
1985 : 1984	+14.3	+24.3	+15.2	+20.3	-27.7	+15.6	+16.4	+4.8	+15.3

Source: National Machine Tool Builders' Association

Form No. PRCC-2



TOTAL INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
MACHINE TOOLS - CUTTING AND FORMING
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog (In Mil. $)	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1985							
Jan.	$ 195,900,000	$ 15,550,000	$ 211,450,000	1,748.30	$ 126,550,000	$ 11,250,000	$ 137,800,000
Feb.	$ 217,600,000	$ 19,900,000	$ 237,500,000	1,819.55	$ 151,650,000	$ 14,600,000	$ 166,250,000
Mar.	$ 249,750,000	$ 29,550,000	$ 279,300,000	1,871.20	$ 204,550,000	$ 23,100,000	$ 227,650,000
Apr. (p)	$ 170,150,000	$ 13,350,000	$ 183,500,000	1,884.95	$ 161,800,000	$ 7,950,000	$ 169,750,000
4 Mos.	$ 833,400,000	$ 78,350,000	$ 911,750,000		$ 644,550,000	$ 56,900,000	$ 701,450,000

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1985						
Jan.	$ 209,000,000	$ 17,850,000	$ 226,850,000	$ 13,100,000	$ 2,300,000	$ 15,400,000
Feb.	$ 230,450,000	$ 20,650,000	$ 251,100,000	$ 12,850,000	$ 750,000	$ 13,600,000
Mar.	$ 266,100,000	$ 32,350,000	$ 298,450,000	$ 16,350,000	$ 2,800,000	$ 19,150,000
Apr. (p)	$ 176,350,000	$ 14,950,000	$ 191,300,000	$ 6,200,000	$ 1,600,000	$ 7,800,000
4 Mos.	$ 881,900,000	$ 85,800,000	$ 967,700,000	$ 48,500,000	$ 7,450,000	$ 55,950,000

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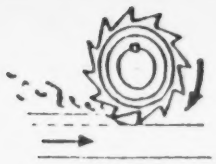
NOTE: This table includes industry estimate figures based on reports submitted to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. These industry estimates have not been adjusted for change in the value of the dollar.



INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL CUTTING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	NET NEW ORDERS Foreign	NET NEW ORDERS Total	Order Backlog (In Mil. $)	SHIPMENTS Domestic	SHIPMENTS Foreign	SHIPMENTS Total
1985							
Jan.	$ 124,750,000	$ 13,000,000	$ 137,750,000	1,180.45	$ 80,600,000	$ 9,150,000	$ 89,750,000
Feb.	$ 148,050,000	$ 15,700,000	$ 163,750,000	1,235.90	$ 98,950,000	$ 9,350,000	$ 108,300,000
Mar.	$ 202,700,000	$ 24,300,000	$ 227,000,000	1,303.90	$ 140,350,000	$ 18,650,000	$ 159,000,000
Apr. (p)	$ 112,850,000	$ 9,250,000	$ 122,100,000	1,322.85	$ 98,150,000	$ 5,000,000	$ 103,150,000
4 Mos.	$ 588,350,000	$ 62,250,000	$ 650,600,000		$ 418,050,000	$ 42,150,000	$ 460,200,000

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	GROSS NEW ORDERS Foreign	GROSS NEW ORDERS Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	CANCELLATIONS Foreign	CANCELLATIONS Total
1985						
Jan.	$ 136,250,000	$ 14,050,000	$ 150,300,000	$ 11,500,000	$ 1,050,000	$ 12,550,000
Feb.	$ 158,900,000	$ 16,400,000	$ 175,300,000	$ 10,850,000	$ 700,000	$ 11,550,000
Mar.	$ 212,600,000	$ 27,050,000	$ 239,650,000	$ 9,900,000	$ 2,750,000	$ 12,650,000
Apr. (p)	$ 117,000,000	$ 10,200,000	$ 127,200,000	$ 4,150,000	$ 950,000	$ 5,100,000
4 Mos.	$ 624,750,000	$ 67,700,000	$ 692,450,000	$ 36,400,000	$ 5,450,000	$ 41,850,000

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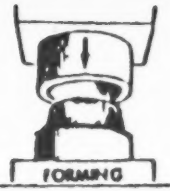
NOTE: This table includes industry estimate figures based on reports submitted to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. These industry estimates have not been adjusted for change in the value of the dollar.

INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL FORMING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog



DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog (In Mil. $)	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1985							
Jan.	$ 71,150,000	$ 2,550,000	$ 73,700,000	567.85	$ 45,950,000	$ 2,100,000	$ 48,050,000
Feb.	$ 69,550,000	$ 4,200,000	$ 73,750,000	583.65	$ 52,700,000	$ 5,250,000	$ 57,950,000
Mar.	$ 47,050,000	$ 5,250,000	$ 52,300,000	567.30	$ 64,200,000	$ 4,450,000	$ 68,650,000
Apr. (p)	$ 57,300,000	$ 4,100,000	$ 61,400,000	562.10	$ 63,650,000	$ 2,950,000	$ 66,600,000
4 Mos.	$ 245,050,000	$ 16,100,000	$ 261,150,000		$ 226,500,000	$ 14,750,000	$ 241,250,000

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1985						
Jan.	$ 72,750,000	$ 3,800,000	$ 76,550,000	$ 1,600,000	$ 1,250,000	$ 2,850,000
Feb.	$ 71,550,000	$ 4,250,000	$ 75,800,000	$ 2,000,000	$ 50,000	$ 2,050,000
Mar.	$ 53,500,000	$ 5,300,000	$ 58,800,000	$ 6,450,000	$ 50,000	$ 6,500,000
Apr. (p)	$ 59,350,000	$ 4,750,000	$ 64,100,000	$ 2,050,000	$ 650,000	$ 2,700,000
4 Mos.	$ 257,150,000	$ 18,100,000	$ 275,250,000	$ 12,100,000	$ 2,000,000	$ 14,100,000

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